

Sadie  
 Mr. Pace  
 English IV  
 Quotes  
 5/15/19

<p>“Because we are designing with organic molecules, we are aware that courtesy of millions of years of evolution, the world around us has a stockpile of molecular arrangements that work. So we use them”(26).</p>	<p>While the scientists at Xymos are foolish by not predicting the outcome of their product, they are smart enough to make it in the first place. To make things easier, they used resources around them instead of coming up with something new.</p>	<p>While humans have come up with many great designs of their own, we still have God and the nature he created to thank for the best ideas. No reason not to replicate the brilliant design.</p>
<p>“The world was becoming digital: everything was smaller and lighter. But kids at school lugged more weight than ever”(47).</p>	<p>Jack is a scientist and an engineer. No doubt he has had to carry around books at school for many many years. His astonishment in this shows how much education has changed. And maybe not for the better.</p>	<p>Parents make the claim that they had to go to school too and that they can relate to their children, but then they turn around and say that school is way different than it used to be. I believe there is too pressure involved on everyone in a school environment. Too much responsibility for both student and teacher.</p>
<p>“The computer would make mistakes. New rules would be added to avoid the mistakes. Then more mistakes, and more rules. Eventually the programs were gigantic, millions of lines of code, and they began to fail out of sheer complexity”(68).</p>	<p>Jack explains his curiosity in what the future holds for computer code technology. Will too much complexity become less of an issue as humans develop new ways to upgrade technology?</p>	<p>Sometimes simple is best. It also can reflect on a government. “A government that governs least is best.” While this may not be true in all cases, experimentation may determine what strategy is best to use.</p>
<p>“Yet people never seem to change as a result of their intensive introspection. They never understand themselves better. It’s very rare to find genuine self-knowledge”(78).</p>	<p>Jack speaks from personal knowledge. He can’t explain the emotions he feels and can’t imagine what it would be like to fully understand himself. In his opinion, anyone with genuine self-knowledge is lucky.</p>	<p>Taking an outside perspective is necessary to fully understand ourselves. This why we are quick to judge because humans, no matter how hard we try, simply aren’t capable of stepping in another person’s shoes.</p>

<p>“Technologies were a form of knowledge, and like all knowledge, technologies grew, evolved, matured. To believe otherwise was to believe that the Wright brothers could build a rocket and fly to the moon instead of flying three hundred feet over sand dunes at Kitty Hawk”(134).</p>	<p>Jack is a very skeptical person. Technology is evolving fast but not at the speed of light. He refuses to believe everything he hears and listen to his boss blindly.</p>	<p>The advancement of technology is exponential, meaning it improves at a faster and faster rate. Some charts reveal unbelievable results, but there are still limits to the growth of knowledge.</p>
<p>“It’s just like a bacterial plague, or a viral plague. Except it’s mechanical organisms. You’ve got a fucking man-made plague”(176).</p>	<p>This is Michael Crichton showing his fear of humans creating something they can’t control. Jack knows that this is nothing he’s ever faced before. Bacteria and viruses can be predictable while AI is not.</p>	<p>We cannot control everything that has mind of its own so be careful. We haven’t studied mechanical organism long enough to predict what they will do.</p>
<p>“If you compressed the history of life on earth into twenty-four hours, then multicellular organisms appeared in the last twelve hours, dinosaurs in the last hour, the earliest men in the last forty seconds, and modern men less than one second ago”(181).</p>	<p>All the evolution that has happened over the course of Earth’s history has led to this moment. Nanobots are the next step in making history.</p>	<p>Compressive history makes you realize how small of a fraction you’ve been alive during Earth’s time. It makes us feel insignificant, but grateful for everything we’ve been able to see evolve over time.</p>
<p>“They didn’t understand what they were doing. I’m afraid that will be on the tombstone of the human race”(201).</p>	<p>I think deep inside, Jack wants to blame ignorance for what seems to be their fault. The team knew what they were dealing with and still proceeded with the experiment.</p>	<p>Just like Jurassic Park, “Your scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could, they didn’t stop to think if they should.” The scientists were already questioning if they should or not. They chose to ignore it anyway.</p>
<p>“At forty, I was too old to work as a programmer myself anymore; writing code is a young person’s job”(30).</p>	<p>Jack feels very defeated. He lost his job, his wife might be cheating on him, and his profession is no longer considered a necessity at his age. He doesn’t know how to convince employers that he is</p>	<p>Not many older people know how to write code because their was little need for it in the beginning of computer invention. Now it comes in much more handy.</p>

	just as good at coding as younger people.	
“Like everything else I’d seen at Xymos, it was jerry-built, half-baked, concocted in a hurry to solve present problems and never a thought to the future”(133).	As with anything, there are consequences, but sometimes they don’t make themselves known until it’s too late. Jack is disgusted with the Xymos ignorance to real problems.	Some people don’t care about the future because they know they will not live long enough to see the consequences anyway. It is our duty as humankind to provide for the next generation as the previous has for us.
“We are one of only three species on our planet that can claim to be self-aware, yet self-delusion may be a more significant characteristic of our kind”(242).	Jack knows a human’s place on earth: we too are just animals trying to survive against the odds. To think of ourselves as ‘more important’ than other species is foolish in Jack’s mind. We are often too smart for our own good.	Humans have no idea what they are doing with their lives half the time. Unlike other species, it is not our only duty to reproduce. We have other responsibilities to tend to in order to lead successful lives. The “self-delusion” is perhaps more in our culture than our instincts.
“Sometimes agents were so influenced by one another that they lost track of their goal and did something else instead. In that sense, the program was very childlike, unpredictable and easily distracted”(155).	Jack knows that when you have a goal that needs to be met, it is important to stick to that goal specifically. Jack wonders how these guys got these jobs if they can’t do it properly.	Our minds don’t do well when we jump around and attempt to multi-task. Focus is the most important thing for getting stuff done.
“Human beings tended to believe that without central command, chaos would overwhelm the organization and nothing significant could be accomplished”(239).	Ricky is bringing up the fact that we could operate better than we think without a government. The swarm does not have a leader and they still maintain collectivity.	While Americans are proud to be free, we still expect some sort of higher authority telling us what to do. We know that we can sacrifice full freedom in order to bring peace.
“But it was one thing to release a population of virtual agents inside a computer’s memory to solve a problem. It was another thing to set real agents free in the real world”(193).	Nothing was being physically harmed or killed inside a computer, but lives matter in the real world.	It’s like a videogame. We can’t expect someone to treat a virtual reality as if it were real because it’s not. In this case, desensitization is a good thing.

“Kids are more advanced these days. The teenage years now start at 11”(42).

Jack doesn't remember his childhood being the same way as his children's is. He can't relate in that way to his children.

Today, we expect children to grow up faster than they can handle. Then, when they start getting minds of their own, parents get mad at them.